

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Joseph Trolen on 07/22/08.

The application has been amended as follows:

Title (New): "Imaging Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy for analysis of molecular interactions in low volumes".

Rejoin **claims 19, 21-23**. Cancel **claims 20 and 22**.

Claim 19 (Amended): A method ~~for detecting the light coming from an illuminated specimen, of imaging fluorescence correlation spectroscopy for analysis of molecular~~

interactions in low volumes, comprising the steps of:

scanning the specimen by focusing illumination light from point to point in at least in two dimensions by at least one image-generating laser scanning microscope (LSM);

~~detecting light coming from the specimen via a detector; and~~

carrying out Fluorescence Correlation Spectroscopy (FCS) evaluation during the scanning process and/or after the scanning process for at least one specimen point by FCS device unit, using a shared control unit for simultaneous operation of the at least one LSM and the FCS device unit; and

graphically depicting results from the scanning process and creating images from the at least one LSM in correlation with FCS data; and

storing and allocating the value detected during scanning and the at least one value detected in the FCS evaluation

determining and selecting measurement locations for the analysis of molecular interaction in the at least two dimensions.

Claims 12, 15-19, 21 and 23 are allowed. The new numbering of claims is 1 through 8.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: regarding the apparatus

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claims the examiner agrees with the Applicants' remarks that the prior art of Koppel does not teach or fairly suggest using a shared control unit for operating both a laser scanning microscope (LSM) and fluorescence correlation spectroscopy (FCU) unit. Regarding the method claims, Koppel does not teach or fairly suggest simultaneous operation of at least one LSM and the FCS unit using a shared control unit and graphically depicting results from the scanning process and creating images from the at least one LSM in correlation with FCS data and determining and selecting measurement locations for the analysis of molecular interactions in the at least two dimensions.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yelena G. Gakh, Ph.D. whose telephone number is (571) 272-1257. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30 am - 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jill A. Warden can be reached on (571) 272-1267. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yelena G. Gakh/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 17979

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